

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee-Budget Workshop

Thursday, February 3, 2011

East Greenwich High School Library

300 Avenger Drive

East Greenwich, RI 02818

ANY ITEMS ON THE AGENDA MAY BE SUBJECT TO A VOTE

The budget workshop of East Greenwich School Committee was called to order in the library of the East Greenwich High school at 6:07 p.m. by School Committee Chair Dr. Deidre Gifford. Those in attendance were Mr. Bob Durant, Vice Chair; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters; Mr. David Green, and Mrs. Susan Records (arrived 6:20p.m.). Mr. Martin and Mr. Sommer were absent.

Also present were Superintendent Dr. Victor Mercurio; Director of Administration Mrs. Maryanne Crawford; Athletic Director Mr. Christopher Cobain; Principal Mrs. Alexis Meyer; Assistant Principal Mr. Michael Podraza, and Assistant Principal Mr. Vin Varrecchione. Finance Committee members present were Mr. Ed Pieroni, Mr. Tom Stocker, and Mrs. June Fischer.

I. Meeting called to order at 6:07 p.m.

II. Action Items:

a. Parental Leave-Caroline Bradshaw, Cole Middle School

b. Resignation-John Hoxie, EGHS Asst. Coach Ladies' Soccer

c. Resignation-Dave Petrucci-EGHS Head Coach, Ladies' Soccer

On a motion by Mrs. Winters and seconded by Mr. Green, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the parental leave and two resignations.

III. Budget Workshop-Secondary Schools, Athletics, and Administration,

Mrs. Meyer gave the Committee an overview of the process she used to develop the Cole budget which included meeting with department chairs and Principals Guisti and Uhrin. Approximately \$29,000 was added to the budget for the incoming grade six class. There was discussion regarding "My Skills Tutor" and data that supports this program. Dr. Mercurio noted he will ask Mrs. Dillon for supporting data. Other items discussed included NWEA testing, detention coverage, and meeting pay for teachers. The cost of the new teacher evaluation tool has not been factored into the budget. Dr. Mercurio would like Mary Ann Snider from RIDE to discuss the teacher evaluation tool at an administration council meeting. Dr. Mercurio and Mrs. Crawford commended Mrs. Meyer and Mr. Varrecchione for their excellent work in developing this budget which was complicated by the transition of grade six to Cole.

Mr. Podraza discussed the process used to develop the EGHS budget which included meeting with department chairs to discuss program needs. It was noted the business department has seen an increase in class sizes and books and other materials need to be purchased.

Due to the science renovations, extra white boards, tables, and other items have been recycled to other areas of the building. Details of Professional Development will be based on the NEASC visit and self-study. Mr. Podraza also noted an increase in students wishing to attend Tollgate's vocational program. Mr. Podraza discussed the need to maintain a certain level of technology in the building. Mr. Green questioned whether funds could be allocated in a budget line to refresh equipment as needed. Dr. Gifford discussed the need for a district wide strategy starting in 2013 to support technology updates. There was discussion whether to lease or purchase technology equipment.

Mr. Cobain gave an overview of the process used to develop the Athletic budget. He noted there are approximately twenty-four sports and three clubs running. This year has been a tremendous year for the district and the quality of equipment and East Greenwich facility are positive factors for players. There was discussion regarding the cost of officials for games which is set by the Interscholastic League with fees ranging from \$50 at Cole to \$80+ for Varsity games. Transportation costs were discussed noting the average bus cost is \$300. Mr. Cobain discussed ways to curb transportation costs including playing two games on the same day with other towns and possibly using town vans or mini buses. Night games have been limited to Thursday and Friday nights due to low attendance during the week. Uniform costs were discussed noting it costs \$3,000 to outfit most teams (except football). The district has been playing

only the required interscholastic games and playoffs. This budget includes the addition of four new coaches: two football coaches to manage approximately 65 students, and two lacrosse coaches for the JV Boys' and JV Girls' team.

Mrs. Crawford presented the Administration budget noting transportation costs are projected at over \$950,000. A meeting is scheduled for February 28, 2011 to discuss a two-tier system for elementary and secondary students. School starting times for Meadowbrook and Hanaford also need to be reviewed. The line for professional development includes textbooks, consultants, and seminars for district-wide professional development. It was noted the district rents the Armory for equipment storage for technology and maintenance equipment with a projected cost of \$23,000.

IV. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Green which was seconded by Mr. Durant, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:35p.m.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO

SECRETARY